

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 239B.4(6) and 249A.4, the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 41, “Granting Assistance,” and Chapter 75, “Conditions of Eligibility,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments remove requirements for the Department to return to applicant or participant households originals of all documents submitted to the Department as verification during Medicaid or Family Investment Program eligibility determination. This change is proposed in conjunction with the implementation of electronic case files and multiple scanning units around the state. Continuing to return all original documents would be a cost to the Department and a poor use of limited staff resources.

The Department will continue to return a limited number of original documents, such as social security cards, birth certificates, drivers’ licenses, passports, and alien documentation. Households will be able to request copies of any scanned documents the Department has, such as pay stubs and utility bills.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations except that the household has the option of making copies of the verification documents and submitting the copies instead of the originals.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before July 6, 2010. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Coordination, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 239B.7 and 249A.4.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 441—41.27(239B), introductory paragraph, as follows:

441—41.27(239B) Income. All unearned and earned income, unless specifically exempted, disregarded, deducted for work expenses, or diverted as defined in these rules, shall be considered in determining initial and continuing eligibility and the amount of the family investment program grant.

1. The determination of initial eligibility is a three-step process. Initial eligibility shall be granted only when (1) the countable gross nonexempt unearned and earned income, exclusive of the family investment program grant, received by the eligible group and available to meet the current month’s needs is no more than 185 percent of the standard of need for the eligible group; (2) the countable net unearned and earned income is less than the standard of need for the eligible group; and (3) the countable net unearned and earned income, after applying allowable disregards, is less than the payment standard for the eligible group.

2. The determination of continuing eligibility is a two-step process. Continuing eligibility shall be granted only when (1) countable gross nonexempt income, as described for initial eligibility, does not exceed 185 percent of the standard of need for the eligible group; and (2) countable net unearned and earned income is less than the payment standard for the eligible group.

3. The amount of the family investment program grant shall be determined by subtracting countable net income from the payment standard for the eligible group. Child support assigned to the department in accordance with subrule 41.22(7) and retained by the department as described in subparagraph 41.27(1)“h”(2) shall be considered as exempt income for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility, including child support as specified in paragraph 41.27(7)“q.” Deductions and

diversions shall be allowed when verification is provided. ~~The department shall return all verification to the applicant or recipient.~~

ITEM 2. Amend rule 441—75.57(249A), introductory paragraph, as follows:

441—75.57(249A) Income. When determining initial and ongoing eligibility for the family medical assistance program (FMAP) and FMAP-related Medicaid coverage groups, all unearned and earned income, unless specifically exempted, disregarded, deducted for work expenses, or diverted as defined in these rules, shall be considered.

1. Unless otherwise specified at rule 441—75.1(249A), the determination of initial eligibility is a three-step process. Initial eligibility shall be granted only when (1) the countable gross nonexempt unearned and earned income received by the eligible group and available to meet the current month's needs is no more than 185 percent of living costs as identified in the schedule of needs at subrule 75.58(2) for the eligible group (Test 1); (2) the countable net earned and unearned income is less than the schedule of living costs as identified in the schedule of needs at subrule 75.58(2) for the eligible group (Test 2); and (3) the countable net unearned and earned income, after applying allowable disregards, is less than the schedule of basic needs as identified at subrule 75.58(2) for the eligible group (Test 3).

2. The determination of continuing eligibility is a two-step process. Continuing eligibility shall be granted only when (1) countable gross nonexempt income, as described for initial eligibility, does not exceed 185 percent of the living costs as identified in the schedule of needs at subrule 75.58(2) for the eligible group (Test 1); and (2) countable net unearned and earned income is less than the schedule of basic needs as identified in the schedule of needs at subrule 75.58(2) for the eligible group (Test 3).

3. Child support assigned to the department in accordance with 441—subrule 41.22(7) shall be considered unearned income for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility, except as specified at paragraphs 75.57(1) “e,” 75.57(6) “u,” and 75.57(7) “o.” Expenses for care of children or disabled adults, deductions, and diversions shall be allowed when verification is provided. ~~The department shall return all verification to the applicant or member.~~